

PET POLICY

Reason this policy is important:

Pets in a child care program will be carefully chosen in regards to care, temperament, health risks and appropriateness for young children.

Procedure and Practices, including responsible person(s):

- Animals will be properly cared for (clean water, food, clean cages, and immunized). Staff will be assigned duties to maintain the pets.
- Animals, their cages and any other equipment will not be allowed in the food prep area.
- Children will be closely supervised when handling pets.
- Children with allergy response to animals will be accommodated.
- Children and adults will wash hands after handling or feeding animals.
- Children will not clean cages or have access to animal waste. Staff will wash hands after cleaning animal cages/equipment.
- Birds of the parrot family that carry psittacosis, a respiratory illness, as well as reptiles and amphibians that typically carry salmonella, a bacteria that can cause serious disease in humans, will NOT be permitted.
- Parents will be notified in writing when pets will be on premises, including the type of pet.

When the policy applies:

This policy applies whenever pets are included in the child care program.

Communication plan for staff and parents:

- _____ will cover policies, plans, and procedures with all new staff (paid and volunteer) during orientation training. They will sign that they have read, understand and agree to abide by the content of the policies.
- During enrollment this policy will be reviewed by _____ with the parents. Parents will sign that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by the content of the policies.
- A copy of all policies will be available during all hours of operation to staff and parents in the policy handbook located _____.
- Parents may receive a copy of the policy at anytime upon request. A summary of this policy will be included in the parent handbook.
- Parents and staff will receive written notification of any updates.

References:

- *Caring for Our Children* – <http://nrc.uchsc.edu>
- *Model Child Care Health Policies* – <http://www.ecels-healthychildcarepa.org>
- _____

Reviewed by: _____ Director/Owner

_____ Health Professional
(physician, nurse, health department, EMS, Health consultant)

_____ Staff member

_____ Other (parent, advisory
committee)

Effective Date and Review Date:

This policy is effective ____/____/____ and will be reviewed annually by ____/____/____ or sooner if needed. Parents and staff will be notified of any upcoming policy review.

*This format is adapted from and used with permission of: National Training Institute for Child Care Health Consultants, UNC, 2000